

SYPHILIS AND GONORRHOEA FROM THE PUBLIC HEALTH POINT OF VIEW

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AS a great deal of interest in syphilis and gonorrhoea has been aroused of late years, and as the seriousness of these diseases with the resulting loss to industry has been brought to the fore, the measures being taken from a public health standpoint by the Provincial Board of Health of Ontario will, no doubt, be of interest to the profession.

On the advice of the provincial public health officials, the medical profession and prominent social workers throughout Canada, the Canadian Government made a grant of \$200,000 (this to be a yearly grant to last for at least three years if conditions warrant it) towards combating venereal diseases. This grant was divided among the provinces according to population, and was given on the understanding that the provinces would advance an equal amount. \$10,000 of this grant was made to the Dominion Council for combating venereal diseases, a voluntary organization whose aim was along the lines of education, advertising and propaganda. The share allotted to the Province of Ontario was \$57,473.68.

The Ontario Government advanced an equal amount, making the total sum of \$115,000 available for the campaign in Ontario.

A division of venereal disease is being organized. This bureau will have charge of the effort of the Provincial Board of Health. It is proposed to divide the campaign into two heads:

1. Education.
2. Treatment.

Education. The most important part of the campaign is education along public health lines. This education will be general in character. It will embrace the medical profession, dentists, druggists, nurses, public men and business officials, social workers, and the general public. A very excellent scientific book called "To-day's world problem in disease prevention," written by John A. Stokes, of the Mayo Clinic, is now in the printer's hands,

and will shortly be available for all medical men free of cost. This book takes up the venereal diseases in a practical and interesting way and will no doubt, be of great value to medical men throughout Ontario.

Pamphlets and bulletins are in course of preparation for dentists asking their support and also for druggists enlisting their support to fight the dangers of quacks and self-treatment.

The Venereal Diseases Act and the regulations are being strengthened and improved so that the treatment of these diseases may be made more efficient.

Pamphlets will be printed suitable for all classes, including nurses, social workers and the home. Lecturers will be sent out where desired to put the dangers of these diseases fairly before the public. There will be an advertising campaign carried on in newspapers and periodicals in Ontario. It is also proposed to show films from time to time on the venereal problem. The Dominion Council for combating venereal diseases has such a film, which will be shown very shortly throughout Ontario. All available methods for placing the venereal problem before the public will be used.

Treatment. No campaign of this character, however, can be complete unless adequate free treatment is provided as well. At the present time all cases of venereal diseases in reformatories and prison farms, etc., are being treated by a specialist medical officer employed by the Provincial Board of Health. All inmates of prisons, reformatories, jails, etc., are examined for venereal disease—smears are taken on all women and on men if considered advisable. All inmates have Wassermanns taken on admission. All cases are treated and kept in institutions until considered safe from a public health standpoint whether this necessitates their being kept over their time or not. These cases when set free are referred to the local medical officer of health for further treatment or observation as necessary.

A license to manufacture an arsphenamine product has been given to the board. Through it the board has power to sell or give free of charge an arsphenamine product to its clinics and also to hospitals and institutions throughout the province. It is expected that the product will be available in two months' time.

The board is arranging to establish special treatment clinics in the larger cities throughout the province for the free treatment of venereal diseases. These clinics are being very generously dealt with and it is hoped that the treatment they will be able to give

those infected and in need of free treatment will be of help in preventing the spread of these diseases.

The following proposition is being presented to the municipalities where, in the opinion of the board, a clinic is advisable. A schedule of apparatus and furnishings suitable for the adequate treatment of these diseases has been drawn up and will be part of the standard equipment required before government aid will be given the clinic.

The board feels that the choice of a site for the special clinic or clinics in the various municipalities should be left to a certain extent in the hands of the local authorities who understand local conditions. The board would suggest, however, that where facilities already exist as in the case of hospitals, etc., other things being equal, these facilities should be used. The board will afford the following assistance to each clinic established:

1. For the purchase of furnishings and apparatus for a special clinic—\$1,000. (It is thought that the cost of the apparatus and furnishings will not exceed this amount.) Where a clinic is already in existence and up to the standard, the same financial assistance will be given.

2. To assist in the payment of a social service nurse, \$500.00 yearly.

3. For each out-patient treatment for gonorrhœa, 50 cents; for each out-patient treatment for syphilis, 50 cents. (No more than one treatment each day will be paid for.) For each out-patient treatment for syphilis in addition, free "salvarsan" will be provided—as soon as the board is in a position to furnish its own product.

4. In the case of patients treated in the hospitals the sum of 25 cents in addition to the foregoing grants will be paid to the hospital for each day of indoor treatment up to three months, at the end of which time the indoor grant will cease.

5. Standard record forms for the use of these special clinics will be supplied by the board.

In return for this assistance the board will require that the clinic will be kept up to a certain standard as follows:

1. The special clinic shall be for the treatment of venereal diseases.

2. The apparatus and furnishings for the clinic shall be as follows: (See schedule (a).)

3. The personnel of the clinic shall be:

- (a) One specialist in venereal diseases who shall be appointed by the hospital if the clinic is in connection

with a hospital and by the local board of health in other cases. This officer must also be satisfactory to the provincial board.

- (b) Such medical assistants as may be necessary shall be appointed on the same basis.
 - (c) One full time social worker who shall be a graduate nurse.
 - (d) One clerk, if the clinic is treating more than forty cases per week.
 - (e) One male orderly.
 - (f) If possible, one undergraduate nurse to assist in the clinic.
4. All treatment in the clinic shall be free.
5. At least one night and two day clinics shall be held per week. (This may be modified on agreement.)
6. Separate hours shall be set aside for men and women in the clinic, also, if possible, separate hours for the treatment of gonorrhoea and syphilis.
7. Weekly reports will be required on forms supplied by the board.
8. The clinic including its records, apparatus, method of treatment, etc., shall be open to inspection by the board.
9. The municipality will be expected to advance an amount for upkeep of the clinic or clinics which shall be approximately equal to the amount advanced by the board (See section 14, subsections 1 and 2, Venereal Diseases Prevention Act.)
10. The social service nurse shall follow up cases outside the clinic to see that all patients continue treatment and also that any possible contacts are examined.
11. Accounts should be rendered at the end of the month and will be paid on the board's certificate.
12. The board reserves the right to modify these rules if such should, in the interest of the clinic, be deemed necessary.

In conclusion the board wishes to express its appreciation for many valuable hints on the subject given by many of the medical men in Toronto and elsewhere who have given a great deal of their time gratuitously in this work. The board feels that special mention should be made of the work of Professor Duncan Graham, Professor Fitzgerald, Dr. Edmund King, Dr. Gordon Bates, and many others.

This campaign can only be a success through the closest co-operation and assistance of the medical profession throughout Ontario, and the board feels that this will be given freely.